

What is claimed is:

1. A method of conducting a PIN-enabled stored value account refund transaction, comprising:
  - receiving a refund request for a stored value account having an associated value purchased in a previous transaction, wherein the request comprises a PIN associated with the stored value account, and wherein the PIN is operative to redeem the associated value;
  - determining whether any of the associated value has been previously redeemed; and
  - providing a response to the refund request.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - determining a refund amount.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining a refund amount includes:
  - responsive to a determination that none of the associated value has been previously redeemed, setting the refund amount equal to the associated value; and
  - responsive to a determination that at least a portion of the value has been previously redeemed, setting the refund amount to zero.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the response includes the refund amount.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a refund amount includes:
  - responsive to a determination that at least a portion of the value has been previously redeemed, setting the refund amount equal to the associated value less the previously redeemed value.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the response includes the refund amount.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - determining an authorization result; and
  - preparing the response, wherein the response includes the authorization result.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the action of determining an authorization result includes:
  - responsive to a determination that none of the associated value has been previously redeemed, setting the authorization result to include a positive refund authorization; and
  - responsive to a determination that at least a portion of the value has been redeemed, setting the authorization result to include a negative refund authorization.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing information associated with the stored value account in a database entry.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

amending the database entry to indicate that the stored value account is deactivated.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

crediting a merchant for an amount associated with the stored value account by a central processor, wherein the merchant sold the associated value to the customer in the previous transaction, and wherein the amount was previously owed by the merchant as a result of the previous transaction.

12. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

providing the refund amount to a customer, wherein the customer purchased the stored value account in the previous transaction.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

deactivating the PIN.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

deactivating the stored value account by a central processor.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the refund request is received by a merchant terminal from a customer.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the refund request is received by a central processor from a merchant terminal.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the refund request comprises an identifier associated with the merchant terminal, further comprising:

determining by the central processor whether the merchant terminal is authorized to make a refund request based on the identifier.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the refund request is received over a telephone network from a phone number identified using automatic number identification, further comprising:

determining by the central processor whether the merchant terminal is authorized to make a refund request based on the identified phone number.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the refund request is received over the internet from an IP address identified by the central processor, further comprising:

determining by the central processor whether the merchant terminal is authorized to make a refund request based on the identified IP address.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the refund request is received over a dedicated data line.
21. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for internet access.
22. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for film processing.
23. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a gift account.
24. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a prepaid gas account.
25. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a prepaid grocery account.
26. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a prepaid entertainment account.
27. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a prepaid movie account.
28. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a downloadable ring tone account.
29. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a downloadable game account.
30. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a downloadable movie account.
31. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a downloadable music account.
32. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a downloadable music account that uses at least one of MP3, MP4, WMV, and WAV music formats.
33. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is a customer rewards account.
34. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored value account is at least one of a bridge and road toll account.

35. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for long distance telephone communication.

36. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for wireless communication.

37. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for wireless telephone service.

38. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for paging services.

39. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for internet-enabled communication services.

40. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for wireless web access.

41. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for emergency road service.

42. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for at least one of legal service, accounting service, and tax service.

43. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for transportation service.

44. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated value is redeemable for online dating services.

45. A method of conducting a stored value account refund transaction, comprising: receiving from a customer a request to obtain a refund for a stored value account purchased in a prior transaction, wherein the request comprises a PIN associated with the stored value account, and wherein the PIN is operative to redeem the associated value;

determining whether any of the value has been previously redeemed; and

determining whether to refund the stored value account based on the determining action.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the refund is a partial refund.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the refund is a full refund.

48. The method of claim 45, further comprising:

responsive to a determination that no value has been previously redeemed, refunding the value.

49. The method of claim 45, further comprising:  
responsive to a determination that the value has been previously redeemed, denying the customer request.

50. The method of claim 45, further comprising:  
deactivating the stored value account, wherein the stored value account is active prior to the customer's request.

51. The method of claim 45, further comprising:  
deactivating the PIN, wherein the PIN is active prior to the customer's request.

52. The method of claim 45, wherein the refunding action comprises providing money to the customer.

53. The method of claim 45, further comprising:  
responsive to a determination that a portion of the value has been previously redeemed, refunding the remaining portion of the value.

54. The method of claim 51, wherein the request comprises entering the PIN at a merchant terminal.

55. The method of claim 51, wherein the request comprises entering the PIN at a merchant terminal twice.

56. A method of conducting a stored value account refund transaction, comprising:  
storing stored value account information in a database entry, wherein the stored value account information is associated with a stored value account, the stored value account has an associated value that was purchased by a customer in a prior transaction;

receiving a refund request for the stored value account, wherein the request comprises a PIN associated with the stored value account, and wherein the PIN is operative to redeem the associated value;

receiving a request to deactivate the stored value account from a first merchant terminal;  
determining whether the associated value has been redeemed; and  
deactivating the stored value account based on the determining action.

57. The method of claim 56, further comprising:  
passing a deactivation confirmation to the first merchant terminal.

58. The method of claim 56 wherein the prior transaction comprises distributing a PIN to a second merchant terminal for distribution to the customer.

59. The method of claim 58, wherein the first merchant terminal and the second merchant terminal are identical.

60. The method of claim 56, further comprising:  
amending the database entry based on the determining step.

61. A method of conducting a stored value account refund transaction, comprising:  
receiving from a merchant terminal a request to determine whether a value has been redeemed, wherein the value is associated with a PIN purchased in a prior transaction, the PIN is operative to redeem the associated value, and the request comprises the PIN;  
determining whether any of the value has been redeemed; and  
passing an authorization response based on the determination to the merchant terminal.

62. A method of conducting a stored value account refund transaction, comprising:  
receiving from a merchant terminal a refund request for a stored value account having an associated value purchased in a previous transaction, wherein the request comprises a PIN associated with the stored value account, the PIN is operative to redeem the associated value, and the request is based on a request for a refund by the customer;  
determining whether the associated value has been redeemed; and  
passing an authorization response to the merchant terminal based on the determining action.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein the authorization response comprises an indication that the value has not been redeemed.

64. The method of claim 62, wherein the authorization response comprises an indication that a portion of the value has been redeemed.

65. The method of claim 62, where the authorization response comprises an indication that the value has been redeemed.

66. The method of claim 62, wherein the authorization response comprises an authorization to provide a refund to a customer, wherein the customer purchased the PIN in the prior transaction.

67. The method of claim 62, wherein the request to determine whether the value of the stored value account has been redeemed comprises an identifier.

68. A method of conducting a stored value account refund transaction, comprising:

selling a PIN to a customer, wherein the PIN is associated with a value, and wherein the PIN is operative to redeem the associated value;

receiving from the customer a request for a refund, wherein the request comprises the PIN;

determining whether the value has been redeemed; and

determining whether to provide a refund to the customer based on the determining action.

69. A system for conducting a PIN-enabled stored value account refund transaction, comprising:

an input device for receiving a refund request for a stored value account having an associated value purchased in a previous transaction, wherein the request comprises a PIN associated with the stored value account, and wherein the PIN is operative to redeem the associated value;

a processor for determining whether any of the associated value has been previously redeemed; and

an output device for passing a response to the refund request.

70. A computer-readable medium encoded with computer program code to conduct a stored value account refund transaction, the program code effective to perform the following:

receive a refund request for a stored value account having an associated value purchased in a previous transaction, wherein the request comprises a PIN associated with the stored value account, and wherein the PIN is operative to redeem the associated value;

determine whether any of the associated value has been previously redeemed; and

determine a refund amount for the stored value account.